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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
★ DEC 31 1937 ★
U.S. Department of Agriculture

December 21, 1937.

THE FRUIT SITUATION

Summary

Although fruit prices have fluctuated somewhat during the past month, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports that prices in general, in mid-December, were not greatly different from those of a month earlier.

Prices of all apples in terminal markets have been fairly steady during the past month at levels reached in early November. Cold storage holdings of apples on December 1 this year were indicated to be the largest on record, exceeding the stocks of a year earlier by one-third.

Market prices of oranges thus far this season have followed rather closely the prices of a year earlier. In early December prices of California Navels were slightly lower than those of a year ago, but Florida orange prices were slightly higher than prices in 1936. The California crop of Valencia oranges, which will furnish the bulk of supplies next summer, is indicated to be more than half again as large as the freeze-damaged crop of last year.

Although grapefruit prices have declined seasonally since the beginning of the season in September, they have remained to date above prices of last year. Total shipments through December 11 this year are slightly less than a year earlier. Weekly shipments from Texas have been running ahead of shipments from Florida.

ORANGES

The seasonal declines in market prices of oranges thus far this season have been similar to those which occurred last year. As is usually the case, some improvement in prices of Florida oranges occurred just prior to Thanksgiving, but part of this gain has since been lost. The average price of Florida oranges at New York rose from \$2.44 per box for the week ended November 13 to \$2.75 for the following week, but dropped to \$2.60 per box by the second week of December. Navel oranges from California began the season in late November with opening prices near those of a year earlier. As market supplies increased, prices dropped sharply; the average price at New York dropping from \$4.62 for the week ended November 27 to \$2.69 for the second week of December.

Shipments of Navels from California heavy

In the second week of December, for the first time this season, total weekly shipments of oranges exceeded shipments for the corresponding week of last year. Weekly shipments from Florida have been running slightly ahead of last season, and the total movement of Florida oranges to date is about 5 percent greater than for the like period of 1936. The total movement of Navels from California for the season to date is about 16 percent less than for the same period last year, but in each of the last 3 weeks shipments this year have exceeded slightly those of a year earlier.

Above average California Valencia crop indicated

Growing conditions were favorable during November, and the indicated production for all varieties of oranges except California Valencias was indicated on December 1 at 41.5 million boxes, slightly larger than that indicated a month earlier, 8 percent greater than the 1936-37 crop, and 25 percent above the 1931-35 average. The prospective crop of 41.5 million boxes is the chief source of supply from late October to May. Preliminary reports indicate that citrus crops in Florida were not seriously damaged by the low temperatures in early December. On December 1, the first indications were available of the size of the California Valencia crop, which will be the chief source of orange supplies during the summer and early fall of 1938. These indications point to a Valencia crop of about 25.5 million boxes, more than half again as large as the freeze-damaged crop of last year, and more than one-fourth larger than the 1931-35 average.

GRAPEFRUIT

Prices of grapefruit in terminal markets rose quite sharply during the latter half of November, apparently as a result of a lighter movement of supplies from producing regions. During the first half of December, however, prices declined and in the second week of December averaged near the levels of a month earlier. Although grapefruit prices have declined seasonally since the beginning of the season in September, thus far they have remained somewhat above prices of a year earlier. Florida grapefruit prices at New York averaged \$2.47 per box during November this year compared with \$1.99 in November 1936. Prices of Texas grapefruit at Chicago averaged \$2.21 during November this year, compared with \$2.11 a year earlier.

Weekly shipments from Texas exceed Florida shipments

Total grapefruit shipments through December 11 this year are slightly less than for the like period of last season, but shipments in the first half of December were about 18 percent greater than a year earlier.

Since the first of November shipments from Florida have been at a slower rate than last year. The rate of shipments from Texas, on the other hand, has exceeded that of a year ago, since the season got well under way in late October, and the weekly shipments from Texas also have exceeded shipments for corresponding weeks from Florida.

Small increase indicated in Texas crop

Indications on December 1 pointed to a total grapefruit crop of 26 million boxes, slightly larger than that indicated a month earlier. This prospective crop is the second largest on record, being exceeded only by the record crop of 1936-37. Indications for the Florida and Arizona crops on December 1 were unchanged from November 1, but the Texas crop was indicated at $\frac{1}{2}$ million boxes more than a month earlier, and the California crop at 135,000 boxes more.

Citrus fruits: Production, average 1931-35, annual 1936 and 1937

Crop and States	Production 1/		
	Average	1936	Indicated
	1931-35		1937
	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes
Oranges:			
Winter and spring varieties:			
Calif., Navels and miscel. ...	15,175	13,234	14,925
Fla. all	16,824	22,500	24,000
Five other States	1,087	2,611	2,606
Total	33,086	38,345	41,531
Summer and early fall varieties:			
Calif., Valencias	19,965	16,829	25,536
Total 7 States	53,051	55,174	67,067
Grapefruit:			
Fla., all	11,997	18,100	13,000
Seedless	2/ 3,633	6,000	5,000
Other	2/ 8,833	12,100	8,000
Tex.	2,105	9,231	8,900
Calif.	1,786	1,550	1,890
Ariz.	981	1,400	2,300
Total 4 States	16,869	30,281	26,090
Lemons:			
Calif.	8,045	8,102	8,550
Limes:			
Florida	12	45	110

1/ Relates to crop of bloom of year shown; picking beginning November 1 in California and September 1 in other States. 2/ 1932-35 average.

Citrus fruits: Weighted average auction prices per box, New York and Chicago, 1936-37 and 1937-38

Week ended	Oranges		Grapefruit		Lemons	
	Calif. Navel	Fla.	Calif. Navel	Fla.	Calif.	Fla.
1/	1936-37 : 1937-38	1936-37 : 1937-38	1936-37 : 1937-38	1936-37 : 1937-38	1936-37 : 1937-38	1936-37 : 1937-38
New York:	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
City						
Sept. 11:						
18:						
25:						
Oct. 2:						
Mo. av.:						
Oct. 9:						
16:						
23:						
30:						
Mo. av.:						
Nov. 6:						
13:						
20:						
27:						
Mo. av.:						
Dec. 4:						
10:						
Chicago:						
Sept. 11:						
18:						
25:						
Oct. 2:						
Mo. av.:						
Oct. 9:						
16:						
23:						
30:						
Mo. av.:						
Nov. 6:						
13:						
20:						
27:						
Mo. av.:						
Dec. 4:						
10:						

1/ Based on 1937-38 calendar.

Oranges and tangerines: Total shipments (rail, boat and truck) 1/ from producing areas by weeks, average 1933-35, 1936, and 1937

Week ended	Average		1936-37		1937-38	
	: 1933-34 to 1935-36 :		:		:	
	: Weekly	: Cumulative	: Weekly	: Cumulative	: Weekly	: Cumulative
	: Total		Total		Total	
	: Cars	cars	Cars	cars	Cars	cars
Sept. 18	1,187	1,187	1,153	1,153	944	944
25	1,172	2,359	1,188	2,341	861	1,805
Oct. 2	1,156	3,515	1,142	3,483	846	2,651
9	1,147	4,662	1,193	4,676	852	3,503
16	1,216	5,878	1,302	5,978	1,221	4,724
23	1,455	7,333	1,422	7,400	1,201	5,925
30	1,568	8,901	1,320	8,720	1,309	7,234
Nov. 6	1,830	10,731	1,541	10,261	1,521	8,755
13	2,229	12,960	2,473	12,734	1,509	10,264
20	2,475	15,435	3,634	16,368	2,652	12,916
27	2,675	18,110	2,628	18,996	2,506	15,422
Dec. 4	3,333	21,443	3,806	22,802	3,512	18,934
11	3,592	25,035	4,339	27,141	4,416	23,350
18	3,113	28,148	3,917	31,058		
25	1,816	29,964	1,768	32,826		
Jan. 1	2,490	32,454	1,740	34,566		

1/ No truck shipments reported for Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi; total truck shipments from Texas, and interstate truck shipments from Florida and California-Arizona.

Grapefruit: Total shipments (rail, boat, and truck) 1/ from producing areas, by weeks, average 1934-35, 1936, and 1937

Week ended	Average		1936-37		1937-38	
	: 1933-34 to 1935-36 :		:		:	
	: Weekly	: Cumulative	: Weekly	: Cumulative	: Weekly	: Cumulative
	: Cars	Total cars	Cars	Total cars	Cars	Total cars
Sept. 18	221	221	661	661	196	196
25	341	562	330	991	400	596
Oct. 2	431	993	508	1,499	485	1,081
9	458	1,451	609	2,108	499	1,580
16	543	1,994	529	2,637	681	2,261
23	650	2,644	1,006	3,643	1,305	3,566
30	738	3,382	1,062	4,705	1,369	4,935
Nov. 6	689	4,071	1,046	5,751	794	5,729
13	767	4,838	912	6,663	811	6,540
20	829	5,737	1,062	7,725	801	7,341
27	781	6,518	1,085	8,810	999	8,340
Dec. 4	925	7,443	1,012	9,822	1,300	9,640
11	933	8,376	1,061	10,883	1,137	10,777
18	700	9,076	942	11,825		
25	433	9,509	633	12,458		
Jan. 1	713	10,222	1,033	13,491		

1/ Total truck shipments from Texas; interstate truck shipments only from Texas and California-Arizona.

APPLES

Prices steady

Prices of all apples in terminal markets have remained fairly steady during the past month near the levels reached in early November. The general average of all varieties of eastern apples at New York for the second week of December was \$1.17 per bushel, compared with \$1.16 for the week ended November 13 and 94 cents for the week ended October 9. Prices of western apples at New York rose slightly during the latter part of November, but in the second week of December the weighted average of all varieties dropped to \$1.67 per bushel compared with \$1.70 for the same week of November. At Chicago prices fluctuated little during November, but showed some tendency to rise in the first half of December. The general average of all eastern apple prices at Chicago was \$1.15 per bushel for the second week of December, \$1.05 for a month earlier, and 88 cents for the corresponding week of October. During the week ended December 4, and in each of the 3 preceding weeks, the weighted average of all varieties of western apples at Chicago remained at about \$1.33 per box. In the second week of December this average rose to \$1.39 per box.

Cold storage stocks largest on record

Cold storage holdings of apples on December 1 this year were indicated to be the largest on record, exceeding stocks of a year earlier by one-third and the 1926-35 average by nearly one-fifth. Most of the increase occurred in the Central and Eastern States, where stocks this year set a new record, and are about 55 percent greater than those of a year ago, and 45 percent above the 1926-35 average. In the Western States, apples continued to move into cold storage during early November, and stocks on hand December 1 were about 28 percent larger than on November 1. They were about 10 percent greater than the December 1 cold storage stocks of last year, but were slightly less than the 10-year average. There are no estimates available of the total quantity of apples in common storage, but indications point to large holdings this year.

Indications of the total 1937 apple crop on December 1 were practically unchanged from a month earlier. The total crop of 211 million bushels is the largest since 1926. The indicated production in the Western States is only slightly larger than the 1931-35 average of 52½ million bushels. In the Atlantic Coast States the crop is indicated at nearly 41 percent above the 1931-35 average, and in the Central States at about 53 percent greater than average.

Apples: Production by regions, average 1931-35, annual
1936 and 1937

Region	Average 1931-35	1936	Indicated 1937	1937 as percentage of average
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Percent
North Atlantic <u>1/</u>	41,480	29,011	56,349	135.8
South Atlantic <u>2/</u>	26,945	19,935	39,952	148.3
Total Atlantic	68,425	48,946	96,301	140.7
North Central <u>3/</u>	32,809	17,593	49,960	152.3
South Central <u>4/</u>	7,265	3,214	11,450	157.6
Total Central	40,074	20,807	61,410	153.2
Rocky Mountain <u>5/</u>	<u>7/</u> 8,504	6,581	8,954	105.3
Pacific Coast <u>6/</u>	<u>7/</u> 43,905	41,172	44,395	101.1
Total Western	52,409	47,753	53,349	101.8
Total United States	160,909	117,506	211,060	131.2

1/ Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania.

2/ Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia.

3/ Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas.

4/ Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas.

5/ Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada.

6/ Washington, Oregon, California.

7/ Includes some quantities not harvested.

Apples: December 1 cold storage holdings, 1926 to 1937

Year	Baskets and barrels <u>1/</u>	Western boxes	Total
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
1926	16,375	15,083	31,458
1927	10,070	13,423	23,493
1928	13,724	17,452	31,176
1929	12,904	15,235	28,139
1930	11,314	21,267	32,581
1931	17,348	16,849	34,197
1932	14,580	14,852	29,432
1933	11,253	13,874	25,127
1934	12,946	18,037	30,983
1935	15,664	17,390	33,054
Av. 1926-35	13,618	16,346	29,964
1936	12,562	13,924	26,486
1937	19,683	15,659	35,342

1/ Includes eastern boxes or crates. Barrels converted on basis of 1 barrel equivalent to 3 bushels.

Apples, eastern: L.c.l. price per bushel, Chicago and New York, by specified varieties and weeks, 1936 and 1937

1936					1937				
Market	Michigan				All	Michigan			
and	Mc-	Green-	Deli-	varie-	Mc-	Green-	Deli-	varie-	
date	Intosh	ing	cious	ties	Intosh	ing	cious	ties	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Chicago:									
Oct. 2 :	1.26	1.30	1.58	1.28	.80	.86	1.03	.87	
9 :	1.45	1.30	1.58	1.32	.84	.74	.98	.88	
16 :	1.43	1.16	1.45	1.32	.88	.80	1.12	.92	
23 :	1.60	1.26	1.45	1.41	1.04	.88	.88	.88	
30 :	1.62	1.27	1.45	1.42	1.14	.86	1.00	.97	
Nov. 6 :	1.62	1.32	1.52	1.38	1.25	.92	1.01	1.06	
13 :	1.64	1.25	1.64	1.47	1.36	.97	1.01	1.05	
20 :	1.75	1.52	1.80	1.62	1.32	.90	1.06	1.08	
27 :	1.75	1.42	1.79	1.62	1.24	.99	1.20	1.05	
Dec. 4 :	1.87	1.53	1.78	1.74	1.32	1.00	1.21	1.10	
11 :	1.75	1.44	1.66	1.61	1.38	1.18	1.27	1.15	
1936					1937				
	New York				All	New York			
	Mc-	Green-	Bald-	varie-	Mc-	Green-	Bald-	varie-	
	Intosh	ing	win	ties	Intosh	ing	win	ties	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
New York:									
Oct. 2 :	1.54	1.04	---	1.35	.88	.62	---	.87	
9 :	1.73	.98	.91	1.35	.95	.72	<u>1/</u> .62	.94	
16 :	1.82	1.16	1.05	1.53	1.24	.76	.69	1.08	
23 :	1.88	1.30	1.15	1.59	1.33	.82	.67	1.14	
30 :	2.09	1.38	1.14	1.62	1.40	.87	.72	1.16	
Nov. 6 :	1.98	1.36	1.12	1.65	1.37	.86	.75	1.11	
13 :	2.00	1.36	1.12	1.53	1.29	.92	.74	1.16	
20 :	2.00	1.35	1.23	1.48	1.42	.94	.82	1.12	
27 :	2.00	1.38	1.32	1.44	1.40	.94	.72	1.09	
Dec. 4 :	1.95	1.33	1.36	1.64	1.34	.92	.70	1.13	
11 :	1.94	1.34	1.40	1.55	1.34	.92	.72	1.17	

1/ Average for 1 day.

Apples, western: Weighted average auction price per box, all grades, at Chicago and New York, by specified varieties and weeks, 1936 and 1937

Market and week	1936				1937			
	Washington			All	Washington			All
	Deli-	Jona-	Rome	varie-	Deli-	Jona-	Rome	varie-
	cious	than	Beauty	ties	cious	than	Beauty	ties
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Chicago:								
Oct. 2	1.95	1.66	1.79	1.79	1.84	1.72	---	1.77
9	1.94	1.61	2.10	1.76	1.82	1.42	1.54	1.57
16	2.01	1.60	2.00	1.80	1.73	1.25	1.88	1.54
23	1.83	1.51	1.86	1.68	1.72	1.26	1.78	1.50
30	1.93	1.56	1.62	1.69	1.54	1.21	1.39	1.39
Nov. 6	1.96	1.68	1.73	1.75	1.65	1.18	1.32	1.42
13	2.04	1.79	1.69	1.87	1.53	1.23	1.14	1.33
20	2.25	1.79	1.72	1.93	1.61	1.21	1.21	1.31
27	2.22	1.75	1.69	1.90	1.70	1.07	1.11	1.33
Dec. 4	2.04	1.68	1.67	1.83	1.59	1.15	1.10	1.33
11	2.06	1.74	1.77	1.88	1.58	1.19	1.12	1.39
New York:								
Oct. 2	2.11	1.84	1.78	1.95	2.04	1.69	---	1.89
9	2.31	1.88	2.28	2.14	2.41	1.83	1.96	1.92
16	2.16	1.70	2.33	2.05	2.21	1.46	2.03	2.00
23	2.10	1.77	2.06	2.06	1.89	1.43	1.87	1.80
30	2.11	1.94	1.86	2.02	1.85	1.40	1.78	1.76
Nov. 6	2.15	1.71	1.85	2.01	1.93	1.37	1.56	1.74
13	2.15	1.48	1.84	2.01	1.80	1.46	1.52	1.70
20	2.30	---	1.90	2.16	1.78	1.41	1.56	1.70
27	2.30	---	1.96	2.16	1.89	1.59	1.57	1.79
Dec. 4	2.29	---	1.93	2.15	1.87	---	1.58	1.79
11	2.32	---	1.98	2.18	1.77	1.30	1.59	1.67

